

OLC 75,2394

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San OTA

24 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Herman Pollack, Office of  
Technology Assessment, US Congress

1. On 18 September 1975, Mr. Herman Pollack, representing the Office of Technology Assessment, met with Messrs. [redacted] Special Assistant for Technology/OER, [redacted] Chief, Trade and Monetary Branch/OER, and [redacted] Chief, Civil Technology Assessment Center/OSI. The meeting was requested by the Director of OTA, Emilio Daddario. A copy of that request is attached.

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2. Mr. Pollack stated his purpose for the meeting as seeking advice and guidance on the establishment of a study project for OTA on the subject of Technology and World Trade; he had been referred to us by members of the President's Science Advisory staff and Dr. Gus Weiss of the CIEP. The study is one that OTA has been asked to conduct by several Congressional committees including the Joint Economic Committee. OTA now has four approved (presumably by the requesting committees) subtopics or principal areas of investigation for the study:

1. Trade with the Advanced Countries
2. East-West Trade
3. North-South (or LDC) Trade
4. OPEC (or "New Rich") Trade

A major concern for each area of study is to be technology transfer and its effects on US competitiveness and/or trade.

3. Mr. Pollack asked what past or current research does CIA have that might relate to the OTA study. He was given a general rundown on the types of studies that both OSI and OER have undertaken in technology transfer, foreign industrial and technology assessment, and support for the MTN. Several

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unclassified studies of foreign civil technologies were shown to him and their availability through the State Dept's. Foreign Affairs Research library was noted.

4. Mr. Pollack also asked our advice regarding the establishment of a study program for OTA's project. The advice provided was general in nature but specific in terms of the on-going work we were familiar with on the subject, e.g. an economic impact study by SRI for State on Soviet acquisition of Western commercial technology, Commerce's Technical Advisory Board work by [redacted] on East-West trade, and the ARPA sponsored work at Battelle on Soviet industrial modeling. The CTA approach to assessing foreign countries and industries in economically significant sectors, i.e., computers and telecommunications, was also described.

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5. It appears Mr. Pollack's job is a most difficult but quite important one since OTA's study - if successful - will address the complex technology-trade problem as it relates to some of the most significant foreign-trade policy issues of this era: West-West Trade -- effect of technology transfer on US competitiveness; East-West Trade -- Soviet economic and military gains through the acquisition of Western technology; North-South Trade -- the role of technology transfer in economic development; and OPEC Trade -- the role of technology in trade with OPEC. Mr. Pollack is not naive about OTA's chances of handling the study -- it's a very large order. On the other hand, he believes the results will have to be solid if they are to satisfy some 50-odd congressmen on the committees concerned. He expressed his appreciation for our time and advice and asked that we contact him if we have any further thoughts. He, also requested that any publications we felt would be useful be forwarded through OTA. He was told all such reports would be forwarded, as appropriate, through the Office of our Legislative Counsel which had handled his request for the meeting.

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[redacted]  
[redacted]  
Chief  
Civil Technology Assessment Center  
PSTD/SI

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Attachment: a/s

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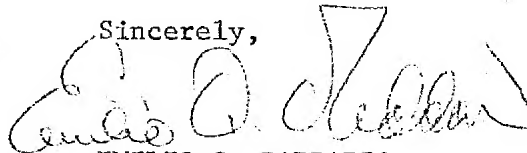
The Honorable William E. Colby  
Director, Central Intelligence  
Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Colby:

STAT. We understand that the Central Intelligence Agency has been or is currently involved in the analysis of international civil technology activities. OTA is performing an assessment for several House and Senate Committees in the area of Technology and World Trade. It may be helpful if your people in that field would care to hear what we are doing, and it would be appreciated if we could get some ideas from you regarding our own effort.

Mr. Herman Pollack is conducting the Technology and World Trade project, and can be contacted directly to arrange for a meeting with the appropriate people from your organization.

Sincerely,



EMILIO Q. DADDARIO  
Director